

ARIZONA SILVER BELT.

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GLOBE, GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 1905.

Established 1878

EQUALIZATION A LA MARICOPA

Unanimous Vote Secured by
Methods Once in Vogue by
Czar and Tom Reed

MINER PAYS THE FREIGHT

Kibbey Wields the Baton and the Band
(Board) Plays—Whereat the Rail-
road Lobby Smiles Often and Again
—Busy Times Ahead for the Courts

The territorial board of equalization—so named by those who created it—has adjourned after doing about all the damage it could to the real interests of Arizona and neglecting to correct several evils quite within its power to control. The Maricopa band has again played that well known solo: "Give! Give! Give!" which has been so effectively repeated from time immemorial and, singularly, they generally get what they clamor for.

At the spring meeting of this board the members relieved all county assessors of any responsibility as to fixing the rates on railroad property, by simply grading them to suit themselves and those who advised them on what would be proper and equitable—politically and from the view point of the tax manipulator. Therefore there was no debatable ground left for the assessor, and his implied instructions were to "soak the big mining corporations."

The former levy on other property was pretty nearly as steep as it could be, and a mild increase was all the average citizen would swallow without a kick from "the voter"—which is always to be avoided when possible—so the obvious deduction was that the big "tax shirkers," as they have been characterized, should stand the boost. More revenue was required—so the territorial officials concluded—and it was also desirable that the tax rate should be reduced—for all but territorial purposes. In short, good politics demanded that the "stand and deliver" policy should be brought into vogue again and it has been applied with a vengeance.

How the Figures Stand

The Phoenix Republican has the following summary: "The following is a list of the counties affected, the per cent of the increase and the total valuation of the mines, exclusive of the improvements, whose assessments under the original resolutions were to be increased 100 per cent. The clause in relation to improvements was temporarily passed over, it having been decided that by reason of a lack of data from the various counties the board could not make a reasonable raise. That matter was therefore allowed to go over until next morning."

County	Increase per cent	Board Valuation
Yavapai	100	\$2,228,039.48
Cochise	100	3,563,788.00
Graham	100	2,697,660.10
Mohave	400	746,375.00
Gila	400	1,226,500.00
Pima	500	629,142.00
Santa Cruz	500	380,150.00
Pinal	500	66,100.00
Yuma	500	72,012.00
Cocino	500	5,800.00
Maricopa	500	7,900.00

Total \$11,637,566.58

The total with the increase on improvements will bring the whole assessments of patented mines up to about \$15,000,000. This is an increase of nearly \$11,000,000 over the amount returned by the county boards. Cochise will be affected more than any other county in the territory, the increase in that county alone being more than \$3,000,000.

It was afterward agreed that a flat raise of 100 per cent in all improvements was "drawing it too coarse," so the rate of advance will be somewhat less.

Other Property Advanced

Later in the session the assessment of live stock in the territory was taken up, and after careful consideration various raises were made. Range horses in the counties of Pinal and Yavapai were raised to \$10 dollars. Work horses in all counties were raised to a valuation of \$40. Saddle horses were raised to \$20 in the counties of Cochise and Pinal. Mules were raised in all counties to a valuation of \$35. Milch cows were raised to a valuation of \$25. The board also raised the valuation of city lots in Pima county to a 75 basis to a 50 per cent basis. This was done so that town and city lots should be assessed at the same per cent throughout the territory.

This is what the "equalizers" did to the reports of the assessors, all of whom without exception had increased the assessments of last year as much as they thought was equitable, and the supervisory boards of the counties had added thereto as much as they considered would stand, under the fire of appeal for reductions which would be made all over the respective districts in view of the low rates at which the railroads had been assessed by the territorial board. These assessors and boards of supervisors may be excused for thinking they know something of governing circumstances in their own counties and should be pardoned if they resent the arbitrary actions of non-residents who placidly inform them by the above increase in their figures that they were non-complacent and knew not whereof they spoke.

Unlimited Gail

The action of the board and those who composed the self appointed steering committee has no parallel in the history of the territory. The roll was not called when the final resolution to

increase mine assessments was put, so any member can say that he did not vote for the resolution—except by the "if there are no objections" method. What was the use? Governor Kibbey found that there was one man on the board whom he could not handle. He called for his resignation and appointed another in his stead on whom he could rely, so the vote was four to two on all propositions. Roll calls were a waste of time. The records of these sessions will probably play a very important part in the litigation which will most assuredly follow the tax levy based on this rating. Phoenix newspapers are loud in their praise of the board's action and cannot say enough in commendation of Governor Kibbey and the noble four who so greatly distinguished themselves and have so widely advertised their original and peculiar brand of equity.

Make No Mistake

The SILVER BELT wishes it distinctly understood that it is fighting nobody's battle and represents no interest but that of the community in which it thrives, and speaks as many words for Pima and Cochise as it does for Gila. We do not even know whether the Old Dominion company objects to the assessment as fixed, or not, but we resent the method by which the enormous raise was made, and object to the action because of its effect on the growing mining industry in this district. We object to the term "equalization" being used in this connection, because these rates equalize nothing in the schedule of taxable property.

It is merely shifting the burden from one pair of shoulders to another, and the strong man in the middle is left with the lightest load to carry.

We do not pretend to say that one railroad should be raised or another lowered in the assessment scale, but there are a few facts which should show anybody but him who refuses to see, the farcical nature of this alleged equalization.

The Old Song of See-Saw

The territorial board considered railroad assessments in the spring and concluded that as it had been a "lean year" rates should not be materially changed. The storms and floods had caused great damage, and repairs and improvements called for large expenditures. But they got even by running a bluff on the refrigerator car companies and other "sleepers" which had long been overlooked. Much capital was made of this—too much, by half—as the assessment was knocked into a cocked hat when the representatives of the Armour and Swift companies put in an appearance before the board last week. The pitiful amount left standing might as well never have been placed on the roll—it's a joke.

We believe in encouraging railroad building and affording the companies every just facility for expansion where local interests are to be benefited. As for through lines in competition the west now knows it has but little to expect in the way of reduced rates unless voluntarily conceded or when the law shall step in—as in Texas—and control to a certain extent the charges made for passenger and freight tolls.

In Arizona the assessed valuation of all railroads is but 9.7 per cent of the commercial values of their stocks and securities on the open market. In no other state or territory is there any valuation less than 15.2 per cent, and that in Oklahoma which is the newest of the territories. This is simply a bald fact. Seems to be room for a little readjustment somewhere.

The Old Dominion Case

For many years the Old Dominion mines have been opened and one smelter has been in operation. Many men have been employed, millions have been expended and these mines and smelter have been the backbone of the camp. The various companies that have come and gone—into liquidation or forced sale—have paid taxes regularly, and the amount has for years been a very large proportion of the total paid in Gila county.

No shareholder of these companies has ever received a dollar in dividends—not one of the companies has ever paid a penny to the men who advanced the capital to develop Globe and make Gila county what it is today.

If the Phelps-Dodge people had not gained control a year and a half ago and put their unlimited resources behind the enterprise, and built the magnificent new plant now in successful operation, there would be but a small village here instead of a thriving city of 7000 people and the whole valuation of Gila county would be less than a million dollars.

Last year the Old Dominion interests paid more than one fourth of the taxes of the county. According to the new tax roll submitted by our assessor and board of supervisors they would have paid even a greater proportion.

Figures That Do Not Lie

And yet, the company has a floating debt which it can hardly liquidate from earnings before January 1, 1906, to say nothing of dividends this year, and the board of equalization would ask a non-dividend paying property to pay fully one half of the county's taxes. The total levy was about \$2,100,000, of which the company was assessed practically \$563,000, leaving \$1,537,000 for all other property in the county of Gila.

Even at the figures quoted above, adding the cost of improvements and deducting the assessed value of patented mines owned by others in the county, the Old Dominion company would be assessed for approximately \$1,250,000 of a total of \$2,100,000.

The latter amount is what the supervisors deemed ample to produce the necessary revenue to keep the county in a healthy financial condition for the current year and leave a little surplus over all obligations.

What business has the board of equalization to say that the tax levy shall be raised above our requirements?

The Territorial Rate

It was natural for the supervisors to suppose that the great increase of ten or more millions in assessed valuations would permit a large decrease in the rate of taxation. Judge their surprise at being notified that the rate for territorial purposes would be 95 cents on

every hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the coming year.

No, the territorial government must take its heavy toll just the same, and if the supervisors wish to decrease the rate below the four dollar mark of last year they must do it out of the county end of the bag. More equalization.

What is this money needed for? What is the purpose of maintaining this high rate on the inflated valuation?

A Sample of Equity

We have outlined the condition of the Old Dominion company in order to contrast it with another corporation in the matter of equalized rating. The United Verde mines have produced millions of money, which has gone out of the territory into the coffers of Senator W. A. Clark, its principal owner. It has been a paying proposition for many years. There is no doubt that there has been disbursed much more than the total valuation of the Old Dominion property, erroneously quoted in Phoenix papers at ten millions. Its value is commonly referred to in Phoenix and other journals at fifty or more millions and the assessment is placed at about double that of the Old Dominion.

There's equality for you with a vengeance.

If the bullion tax bill before the last legislature—openly advocated by General Thomas F. Wilson, now one of the board of equalization—who was placed in his position to make sure of a majority for this jump in assessed values, had become a law what would be the comparative positions of these two corporations on the tax roll?

To Correct an Error

The wise men who questioned, David S. Heron, assessor of Gila county, at the board meeting asked some questions which should be recorded. They desired to know the market value of shares of the Old Dominion Company and Mr. Heron replied that he thought it was about \$10,000,000. In point of fact it does not figure that amount by five millions but that is of no consequence. People holding this stock believe in the future of the property, even though it has not been productive of dividends in the past, and the price fluctuates between a dollar or two below par to a dollar or two above the original share price. Cash and not dividends account for the stock market price. If United Verde was not so closely held by a few people it would bring five or ten times its par value on the open market. But Mr. Heron was correct in saying that \$500,000 was an equitable assessment for the property owned by the Old Dominion in Gila county, knowing as he did all the circumstances, conditions and history of the ups and downs of the mines and smelters for many years—principally downs. He also thought that it was enough for one concern to pay one fourth of the taxes of a county like Gila and no apology is due to anyone from him for his statement to the board.

In Other Counties

Whatever dividends and earnings the mines and smelters of Cochise and Graham counties have paid in the past we are not in a position to say. But, there are many promising mines in both which will be seriously affected by this wholesale advance, that have not yet arrived at the dividend stage. There are negotiations under way for the purchase of property, erection of reduction plants and other improvements which may be delayed for years in consummation because—not so much the mere matter of dollars involved in the payment of the new tax levy—but business men will not enter a field where a board of control can maintain such an autocratic attitude and at their own sweet will, or the dictation of a Czar-like governor pile the burdens that belong to others on their shoulders.

Pima county is struggling to develop her mines and is on the point of adding largely to her wealth producing factors by attracting outside capital to accomplish what her people cannot do alone. She had a member on the board of equalization who was wise to the necessity of every encouragement being offered to the capitalists now engaged in the work of developing her magnificent resources, but he had to take his hat and go because he would not answer to the crack of the governor's whip and preferred to serve his constituency and his conscience.

Yuma county is in a similar position—needing every possible aid to advance her mining interests and she too will receive a setback in her aspirations.

But Maricopa Smiles

Maricopa is rejoicing because there will be more revenue to spend at the capital, and as long as the other counties pay the bills she is happy. Her mines are few and far between and the taxes paid into her coffers by her own ores do not cut any appreciable figure. If Maricopa was in Yavapai's shoes, or better still, those of Cochise, a howl would go up to beat the trained coyote band at the injustice, and some very hard names would be freely hurled at all connected with the inquiry. But she grows garden sass and rich with which to feed the mining people, and her farm lands have been practically exempted from the increase. Phoenix wants the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific to make her a great railroad center and therefore she must say or do nothing to rile the railroad push, so she joins the claques vigorously and cries: "encore! encore!"

Litigation is Certain

The attitude of the governor and his majority is a direct challenge to the powerful interests back of the big mining companies and they will not be slow in taking up the gauntlet. But, what of it? One member of the board was heard to say: "make litigation? Of course it will. But I make my living by litigation." There is a feeling of deep disgust among the managers of the smaller mining companies here; men who are spending their own and their companies' money in developing non-paying properties and if this dose should, by hook or crook, be made to stick there will be very few mines patented in Gila county for some time to come. The rise on improvements will be about all they can be made to swallow.

See the subscription offer in connection with the new City Directory.

GLOBE CAPITAL IN DOS CABEZAS

Newman and Thompson Purchase Interest of Garden and Lane

OIL IN THE ARTESIAN BELT

Operations of Well Drillers in Various Sections of the Territory—Experts Speak Highly of Prospects—Californians to Become Interested.

As a result of the visit of Jack Newman and Henry Thompson to the new strike recently made by Jack Garden on claims owned by Lane, Frank Thompson and himself, of which mention was made in the last issue of the SILVER BELT, the two first named gentlemen have purchased the interests of Lane and Garden and with Frank Thompson will at once proceed to make a mine of the property. Henry Thompson left will leave in a few days for Dos Cabezas to supervise the work of development. Speaking of the rich ore he said they found a four foot vein in fine position, all bearing good pay ore and carrying a rich streak sixteen inches in width from which assays were returned showing 16,000 ounces of silver and \$900 in gold. They will sink an incline shaft on this vein, which will be easy work as it is nearly perpendicular. They do not expect that it will continue to produce such remarkable ore, but the formation indicates a true vein which should develop at depth into a good ore body that will richly repay for development. Meantime they will be mining in ore that should much more than cover the cost of operations. Mr. Thompson believes that this district, which is twelve miles south of Bowie and about seven miles from Dos Cabezas, is destined to be a great producer of copper as well as silver and gold.

The Dos Cabezas range of mountains presents an attractive mining field tributary to Bowie, distant from seven to eighteen miles. One of the richest properties in that section is the "Happy Hooligan" group of five claims in the Mineral Park district, southwest of Bowie, owned by M. E. Kinchilla. It is a property of great promise. The development consists of two shafts on the ledge, one 52 feet and the other 35 feet deep; also drifts and open cuts, exposing a 26 inch pay streak showing free gold. Several assays of \$128 gold have been obtained and a shipment of five tons returned \$67.50 per ton in gold. Mr. Kinchilla is a pioneer prospector and miner and was in early days a scout in the employ of the government at various army posts in Arizona. In addition to the Happy Hooligan group he owns other claims in the Dos Cabezas.

Dan and Henry Collard own a group of eleven claims at Apache Pass, 12 miles south of Bowie, with a strong ledge of galena ore that goes 50 per cent lead and carries good silver values and two ounces gold per ton. Another lead on their property runs as high as \$100 gold. They have a five-stamp mill running on this ore. The Collard property is extensively opened.

SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY ADAMS

Man Sent From Here Who Worked on Plunkett Ranch With the Mexicans
Telegraphs the News

The sheriff's office received a telegram this morning from Frank Adams, who went to Alamogordo on Friday for the purpose of identifying the Mexican suspects held there, saying that he identified both men as the ones who worked on Plunkett's ranch the day before the murder of Sam Plunkett and Ed. Kennedy.

Extradition papers will be applied for at once if the men refuse to come without, and they will be brought here as soon as the machinery of the law can be made to revolve.

David S. Heron, undersheriff, intends to go to Sweetwater, Tenn., in the near future and may take with him a person who says he can identify them if they are the men (or man and boy), who worked on the canal near Roosevelt about the time of the murder. These men are not to be released until it is morally certain that they are innocent and no chances will be taken in the case. Evidence against the Alamogordo men is yet to be produced. The authorities have great hopes of connecting one pair or the other with the fiendish crime.

Everybody Gets a Little

Farm lands have not been much affected, but horses, cattle, mules and other animals have been lightly touched up to give color of reason to the main drive. Realty has been advanced a little in spots, but not enough to hurt. The mines have caught it so much harder than anybody else that that fact is supposed to answer all the kicks of the less injured. If the game was intended to cause the big mining corporations to pay most of the taxes of the territory to the end that the farmers, cattlemen and others should go practically untaxed it might be voted a success if the powers that be can make the deal go through. But to classify such rank, ill-advised, unwarranted and autocratic actions as "equalization" requires powers of imagination not common among men. If it does not prove a boomerang to the territory of Arizona the ARIZONA SILVER BELT's guesser is way out of gear.

DRILL FOR PETROLEUM IN THE ARTESIAN BELT

New Life Infused Into the Project and the Development Will Soon Be Under Way

Work is about to be commenced in developing the artesian oil belt in the Gila valley. Henry Hill, of Clifton, has secured a lease on the Henderson oil lands and will start drilling operations within a week or two.

F. G. Downey, of Bowie, an experienced oil man, owns a large tract of land in the artesian belt which is soon to be exploited. Mr. Downey is negotiating with the Associated Oil company of San Francisco, for the development of his claims. The oil belt lies about eight miles south of Safford.

Mr. Downey also has a bond on some of the best oil locations near Roosevelt and thinks very highly of that field. He has examined the Riverside oil field in Pinal county and believes that oil can be developed there.

In this connection it may be well to note that two wells are being drilled near Jerome Junction and the Californians interested in the operations are very sanguine as to the indications. They may have to go pretty deep, but fully expect to be rewarded by a good flow of high grade oil.

Should any of these ventures prove successful Arizona would soon be emancipated from the burden of high priced fuel.

LOCAL MINING NEWS

The Consolidated Mines & Development company's prospect is still in sulphide ore encountered nearly two weeks ago. Samples of ore assayed at the Old Dominion office on Tuesday are said to show six per cent copper, four per cent sulphur and 21 per cent iron, as well as a small amount of arsenic. Of course, all the ore does not show such values, but there are stringers in the ledge that look good to many who have visited the property. The contractors have been instructed to sink until the clay seam on the foot wall is encountered and then descend the incline keeping in the ore and on the clay line. The work will thus be all in ore and most of it will have some value. When the depth contracted for, 150 feet, is reached a crosscut will be run to the hanging wall. Speculation in the shares which were originally issued at 5 cents, has been very active for a week past and several thousand shares have been traded in at from ten to fifteen cents.

A. C. Sieboth, superintendent of the Lake Superior & Arizona Copper company, has received returns from a thirty ton shipment of ore to the El Paso smelter which netted the company \$70 a ton after all charges were paid. Some rich gold ore has recently been opened up and there is apparently a large body of it.

EQUALIZATION THAT EQUALIZES SOMETHING

Supervisors Practice Principles of True Equity in Dealing With the County Assessment Roll

The board of supervisors has been in session all the week as a board of equalization. Many have appeared before them with evidence sustaining their claims for a reduction of the amounts returned against them on the rolls and some minor reductions have been made. (There is no dissatisfaction that is well based and the valuation will remain practically at the \$2,000,000 mark.)

This is quite an increase on the amount which stood last year after all deductions had been made, and much more than half the advance comes from the Old Dominion company. The rate will hardly be reduced because of the high territorial rate, 95 cents on each hundred dollars, notwithstanding the increase of eleven millions or more by the "board of bulldozers" at Phoenix. Auditor Hill wired the officials here that Gila county's interest charge on outstanding obligations will be 17 cents an \$100. Then there is the special tax for additions to Central school, voted in July.

The supervisors are struggling with the problem today and the rate will be announced in our next issue.

Assessor Heron is authority for the statement that farm lands and realty in Maricopa county are not assessed within 20 per cent as much as are Gila county farm lands and realty—in comparison with their sale value. No wonder the Phoenix papers keep up the howl against all criticisms of the alleged equalizers' action.

A Call From the Bunch

A half dozen of them trooped into the sanctum last night breathless with laughter and excitement. They had been to the train—because it was on time again—and were rubbing for the latest arrival from the warm summer resorts, returning to the cool and pleasant weather of the mountains. The news gatherer was not there and he missed it, so they told him.

"Do you know that Miss Garwood has returned?" Not yet.

"Well, she has and we were there to meet her; she's just come back from St. Louis—and say! she's going to open up a large stock of the latest millinery creations in Bob Merritt's store when the ice cream weather goes south, and say! We were all there; no, there are none of the "Quails" left but just us all—you know; and Bob Merritt was there, and Ikey—don't you know Ikey? Why he's Bob's ever faithful—a dog? Why of course. And everybody was so glad to see her. Yes Bob was, of course—and Ikey? why you ask an awful lot of questions—and all of us were there too. And we're glad she's back because she's awfully jolly—and we're dying to see those new hats. Well, so long! Now Ed. he won't put that in, and you know it." And the bright faces and merry laughter faded through the doorway to the great regret of the force.

VOTES COME IN HUNDREDS

And it Would Fool a Microscope to Search for a "Yes" Vote

HUNDRED OR MORE TO ONE

Is the Way Gila County Votes Would be Recorded at the Polls if an Election Was Held on the Question of Joint Statehood—Enthusiastic Workers

The ballot published in the SILVER BELT last week has brought out public sentiment with a rush. Every mail brings in a batch of votes. People mail members of the BELT force wherever they are met, outside and pass in their votes. At least one hundred have called at the office and deposited their votes and the tickets are now counted by the pound rather than by the hundred.

The idea appealed at once to the earnest and thoughtful and as no petitions have been received here—or at least are not in evidence, publicly—several men who believe as the BELT does—"single statehood or a territory indefinitely"—got out and hustled, working like politicians do on an election day. Seeing that the movement was so popular a thousand duplicates of the ballot were printed and placed in the hands of the workers with most gratifying results.

W. H. Mercer brought in 185 ballots as the result of a day's canvass. J. B. Coplen brought in a big batch and called for more blanks. Will Sultan polled Copper Hill to a standstill. E. F. Eisenhour corralled 32. The night shift at the smelter returned 39 names and the office force about 20.

IN ALL THE VOTES POLLED NOT ONE "YES" WAS MARKED.

The people want to vote and we will help them. Votes have come from El Paso, Tucson, the coast and from far and wide, mailed by absent citizens who feared to miss so good a chance.

H. Q. Robertson will carry a big bunch of ballots on his tour of the southern part of the territory.

We will furnish to all applicants in quantities to suit, the blanks on application, mailing them throughout Gila and Graham counties as requested. Gisela, Payson, Livingstone, Roosevelt, San Carlos and a dozen other places want them. Send along your orders. We need 2000 votes at least. No charge to those legally entitled to vote. No time to count them but there are certainly over 500 in the box. Hustle!

STATEHOOD BALLOT

Arizona Silver Belt, Globe, Ariz.

On the question: Shall Arizona be joined to New Mexico in Statehood? I vote

Yes ☐ Place cross in square to denote choice.

No ☐

Any remarks on this line.

Sign full address here.

Tregallis-Skelly

On Saturday evening, at 7:30 o'clock, August 19, 1905, Mrs. Ella B. Skelly, of Globe, was united in marriage to John Feversham Tregallis, a native of Scotland, whose residence is Scarborough, England, at the M. E. church, by Rev. R. I. McKee. Mrs. Skelly is well known in Globe, where she has a host of friends and is highly esteemed in social circles. The groom is a member of the ancient and wealthy house of Feversham, for generations prominent in the British parliament. Mr. and Mrs. Tregallis will leave on Monday next for a trip to the coast resorts for a stay of three weeks. On their return to Globe they will shortly depart for New York to sail for England, where they will reside permanently. The best wishes of the community, in which the SILVER BELT joins, will follow the happy couple to their home beyond the sea.

Interesting Services

The Baptists will have special services at Fireman's Hall on Sunday at 11 a. m. There will be an ordination of deacons and a sermon. There will also be preaching at night. At an hour to be named later there will be baptisms at the natatorium. The Sunday school will be held at Odd Fellows' Hall at 3 p. m. All are cordially invited to attend these services.

Mrs. J. W. Brown, accompanied by Miss Nan Shanley have gone to the Portland fair by a wide detour. They will first visit Denver and thence go to Salt Lake, Portland and return by way of San Francisco and coast points. They will be absent about three weeks.